

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A recording apparatus, for causing a recording unit for recording on a recording material, comprising:

5 a conveying roller for conveying a recording material or a tray on which the recording material is mounted;

a carriage lifting mechanism for changing an interval between the recording unit and the recording
10 material; and

a cleaning unit for maintaining/recovering a function of the recording unit,

wherein, in accordance with a separation instruction to separate the recording unit from the
15 recording material, an interval between the recording unit and the recording material is changed before a recording operation is started by the recording unit, and

wherein a position of the recording unit is
20 returned to a predetermined position before a cleaning operation is started by the cleaning unit.

2. A recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the recording unit is separated in the
25 heightwise direction; and wherein, before the recording operation is initiated, the position of the recording unit is progressively changed in the

heightwise direction, and the recording unit is returned to the initial height position before the cleaning operation is initiated.

3. A recording apparatus according to claim 2,
5 wherein height positions for the recording unit are a normal position for performing normal recording, and a CD position for recording data on a CD mounted on a tray; and wherein the height positions of the recording unit are switched in accordance with the
10 separation instruction.

4. A recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein height positions for the recording unit are a normal position for performing normal recording, a
15 thick sheet position for recording data on thick sheet, and a CD position for recording data on a CD mounted on a tray; and wherein the height positions of the recording unit are switched in accordance with the separation instruction.

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5. A recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the separation instruction is issued by a signal transmitted by a host.

25 6. A recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the separation instruction is issued by a signal based on a sensor in the recording apparatus.

7. A recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning unit includes a capping member for covering the recording unit and a wiping member for wiping the recording unit.